**"Testing Time"**

Pastor John Mulligan

**John 6:1-15 (ESV)**

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.  (2)  And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.  (3)  Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.  (4)  Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.  (5)  Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (6)  He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

(7)  Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."  (8)  One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,  (9)  "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

(10)  Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.  (11)  Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.  (12)  And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." (13)  So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.  (14)  When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"  (15)  Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

**1) God orchestrates the natural trials of life to mature our faith (verses 1-6)**

**James 1:2-3 ESV**
Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,  (3)  for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

**2) The next thing we do/say reveals what we really believe (verses 7-9)**

**3) Yielding to Jesus in trials is hard, but results in Praise, Glory, and Honor to Him  (verses 10-15)**

**1 Peter 1:3-7 ESV**
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  (4)  to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,  (5)  who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(6)  In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,  (7)  so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.